

REMARKS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 13-17 and 19-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 13 recites the limitation "said fixing portion" in line 4, and there is said to be insufficient basis for this limitation in the claim.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 13 has now been replaced by claim 27, and it is believed that claim 27 conforms to all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

Art Rejections

Claims 13-17 and 19-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oellerking in view of Christensen. The Examiner alleges that Oellerking discloses a fabric comparing a welding portion and a fixing portion. The welding portions may be discontinuous or continuously formed across the perimeter of the fabric, and may comprise a weldable plastic material. The Examiner alleges that the non-coated portion of the fabric comprises a fixing portion. The Examiner admits that Oellerking differs from the claimed invention because Oellerking does not specifically teach applying the welding portion so that it is in the middle of the fixing portion, so that there are two fixing portions

connected edge-to-edge together, so that that two welding portions are attached to the middle of the fixing portion, or that two welding portions are branched from one edge of the fixing portions. Oellerking also does not teach incorporating auxiliary filing means into the fixing portion. The Examiner states that Christensen teaches that providing auxiliary fixing means in the portion of a welding fabric outside of the welded portion enhances the overall strength of the bond.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. All of the claims now require that the welding fabric include auxiliary fixing means in the fixing portion of the welding fabric, which auxiliary fixing means are used to connect the welding fabric to another unit or to a column or the like. As disclosed in the specification at page 6, lines 1-11, the fixing means are provided to facilitate fixing the unit to another unit or to a column using a rope or cord or similar device threaded through the holes or straps.

In contrast thereto, Christensen discloses a lap joint between fabrics welded together in an elongate weld zone whereby thread sewings are formed parallel to the weld zone outside of the weld zone. the thread sewings are situated so near the weld zone that they relieve it. What Christensen discloses is a line of stitching immediately adjacent the weld zone or a small distance therefrom so that when a joint area is subjected to tension in the transverse direction, each

In re Appl. No. 09/033,909

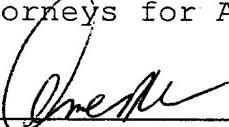
fabric layer will be somewhat compressed by the stitches, which prevents perpendicular stresses from occurring in the weld zone. This has nothing to do with fixing the unit to another unit or to a column of the like using a rope or cord or similar device. The auxiliary fixing means of the present invention are designed to accommodate a thread or a rope or the like in order to affix the welding fabric to another body by means of cords, ropes, or the like, and not by adding to the welded joint of the welding fabric.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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